

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PROFESSOR GLANTZ' IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT
POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

REFS:

A. USBERLIN 0269

B. LISBON 0678(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SUMMARIZED BELOW ARE PROFESSOR MICHAEL GLANTZ' INITIAL OVER-ALL IMPRESSION OF PORTUGUESE SCENE THAT EMERGED DURING HIS RECENT EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO PORTUGAL. HIGHPOINTS OF GLANTZ'S INTERVIEWS WITH AFM LEADERS, AS RELAYED BY HIM TO MISSION OFFICER DURING BERLIN STOPOVER, ARE REPORTED IN REF A. END SUMMARY.

2. SITUATION IN PORTUGAL PRIOR TO ELECTIONS EXTREMELY CONFUSED AND FLUID. SPECULATION AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN RUNS THE GAMUT FROM CIVIL WAR BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, A COMMUNIST TAKE OVER AFTERWARDS, TO A MEANINGLESS ELECTION WITH POWER BEING CONSOLIDATED IN THE HANDS OF THE AFM.

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3. LEFT IS HOPELESSLY DIVIDED WITH RESULTING PROLIFERATION

OF PARTIES AND GROUPS. TRADITIONAL PARTIES LIKE SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST LOSING POPULAR SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED TOO BOURGEOISE. MOST DEDICATED LEFTIST PARTY IS LUAR (URBAN GUERRILLA MOVEMENT), WHICH ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR UNDERGROUND STRUGGLE AND OPPOSES APRIL ELECTIONS. LUAR IS NOW SUPPORTING AFM LEADER GENERAL CARVALHO BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED HARMLESS AND ACCEPTABLE AND HAS POPULAR BACKING. LUAR HAS INVITED ULTRA LEFTISTS FROM LATIN AMERICAN, SPAIN, AND PLO TO ATTEND ITS FIRST PARTY CONFERENCE AROUND FEB 21. (GLANTZ SAID HE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND, BUT DECLINED BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS.)

4. BREAKDOWN OF PARTY SUPPORT ESTIMATED TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

PCP--15 PERCENT
CDS--30 PERCENT
PPD--30 PERCENT
PS--10 PERCENT
OTHERS-15 PERCENT.

5. POLITICAL SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT IN CUBA IN EARLY FIFTIES BEFORE BATISTA TOOK OVER. DESPITE STRONG LEFTIST SENTIMENT IN COUNTRY, GLANTZ FEELS DIVISIVENESS ON THE LEFT COULD LEAD TO A "RIGHT-WING COUP," I.E. A POWER GRAB BY THE MOST CONSERVATIVE OF THE LEFTIST GROUPS.

6 AFM, DESCRIBED AS A NON-PARTY PARTY, WANTS TO STAY IN POWER. MILITARY LEADERS ARE BEGINNING TO BUILD THE MYTH THAT THEY ARE INVINCIBLE AND, THEREFORE, IT HARMFUL FOR COUNTRY IF THEY FORCED TO RETURN TO THE BARRACKS. CARVALHO MADE IT CLEAR TO GLANTZ THAT AFM WILL NOT HESITATE TO SHOW RPT SHOW THE MEANS OF FORCE AT THEIR DISPOSAL. IT IS UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE AFM, IF PUT TO THE TEST, IS PREPARED TO USE THESE MEANS TO RETAIN POWER.

7. POSSIBLE PRE-ELECTION SCENARIOS:

A. AFM ASSUMES FULL CONTROL AND CANCELS ELECTIONS:
B. SOME PARTIES WITHDRAW FROM ELECTIONS REALIZING RESULTS WILL BE MEANINGLESS:
C. AFM RETIRES VOLUNTARILY FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE-;
D. AFM DIVIDES AS SOME OF ITS MEMBERS STAND AS CANDIDATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR POLITICAL PARTIES:

E. THE EXTREMISTS PRECIPITATE CIVIL WAR WITH THE RESULTING AFM REACTION RUNNING THE SPECTRUM FROM PASSIVITY TO FORCEFUL SUPPRESSION.

8. THE INCREASING TENSION AND INSECURITY BELOW THE SURFACE WILL FORCE SITUATION SOON TO COME TO A HEAD.

9. WITHIN THE MILITARY THERE IS MUCH DISCONTENT AND RESENTMENT OVER THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF MANY COMPETENT REGULAR OFFICERS. FIRST THE FASCISTS WERE REMOVED, THEN THE SPINOLISTS, MORE RECENTLY THE MILITARY INTELLIGENTISIA. THE QUESTION NOW BEING WIDELY ASKED IS WHERE THE AFM WILL APPLY THE PURGE NEXT.

10 AFM CONCERNED OVER INCREASING ARMS SMUGGLING BY THE PARTIES. THEY ALSO FEARFUL OF A TERRIBLE BLOOD BATH SHOULD A CIVIL WAR ERUPT BECAUSE SO MANY YOUNG PORTUGUESE, WHO PERFORMED MILITARY SERVICE IN AFRICA, ARE SKILLED IN USE OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY. GEORGE

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